WOMEN
LEADERSHIP, DEVELOPMENT & AID:
a critical review
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Civil society orgs taking socio-political and humanitarian actions + collaboration to address common challenges = the new version of humanitarian action = more innovative, flexible and responsive
START Network

• Working since 2010 this consortium works in 3 areas:
• Start Fund- financing for emergency response
• Start Build- Strengthening civil society capacity
• Start Beta- creating platforms for partnerships and learning
• START was a pilot supported by UK DfID and deemed as a success
of the transition, from MDGs to SDGs, existing dev. models to green pathways without full understanding of the implication for women.

resources dwindling, quality falling and becoming inaccessible.

stresses & tensions around human-rights are rising.

of climate change and mis-governance 

structural causes that disadvantage women, lack in adequate measures to address them.

WE ARE CONCERNED
12/25 DISASTERS SINCE 2000

- 2000 Mozambique flood
- 2003 European heat wave
- 2004 Indian ocean earthquake
- 2005 Hurricane Katrina
- 2005 Pakistan earthquake
- 2008 Cyclone Nargis
- 2008 Afghanistan blizzard
- 2010 Haiti earthquake
- 2010 East Africa drought
- 2011 New Zealand earthquake
- 2011 Tohoku Earthquake & tsunami
- 2011 Afghanistan earthquake
- 2011 Gujarat earthquake
- 2011 East Africa drought
65 million people targeted for assistance

- 3,221 projects planned and 1,629 funded
- 623 participating humanitarian organisations
- $5.5 billion raised through inter-agency appeals
25000 lives lost
$130 b in damage
$13.4 b required
$8 b funded
World Bank states that $7 billion was saved from disasters for every $1 spent on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The World Bank has funded $8 billion in international financing on DRR. This has resulted in $56 billion saved, which equates to 4+ years of funds. The European Commission (ECHO) has funded $14 billion for emergencies. The question asked is whether we are proactive or reactive?
IMPLICATIONS FOR WOMEN

50%  50%
95% in developing countries

5% deaths by disasters

140 thousand died in 1991 cyclone in Bangladesh

90% were women

10% men

During hurricane Katrina, most victims trapped in New Orleans were women and children

women and children x14 more likely than men to die during disaster
WOMEN’s VULNERABILITY

inherent ?

socially constructed identity

constructed ?

imposed

framed

perpetuated

gender stereotypes

susceptibility to external threats
WOMEN’S CONTRIBUTION

- Giving birth: 100% of the global reproductive force
- Producing food: 43% of agri-labour producing +50% of global food
- Giving care: majority carry out household chores and unpaid care-work
Are we addressing the social determinants when offering humanitarian assistance, or, and in Disaster Risk Reduction investments?
Global Food Security Index has a 0.93 correlation with Women’s Economic Opportunity Index.

- Countries with more gender-sensitive business environment
- Labor policies
- Access to finance
- Comparative levels of education and training

Are likely to have abundant nutritious affordable food.
With greater gender equality, farmers in countries achieve higher-average cereal yields.
HOW STRONG ARE MGDs

Can SDGs fix the problem?
FOR SDGs, WE NEED TO ADDRESS

SDGs

structural causes of gender discrimination

distribution of capabilities and opportunities

impediments of decision-making power

to materialize transformative SDGs for women empowerment
HOW SHOULD WE ACT ALONG

- **investment in DRR & CC induced disasters & emergencies to protect development achievements**

- **investing in women's agency building to address vulnerabilities**

- **inclusive and transformative DRR and humanitarian response**

pathway to women leadership
WHY WOMEN LEADERSHIP

worst affected
the first responders
lead our work with men
challenge unequal power
lead disaster response
despite adverse reaction from vested quarters, community women led emergency response

- selecting programme participants
- Lead in procurement
- supervising in reconstruction work

bit.ly/WLERaab
Acting as one- NARRI

- Consortium of 10 INGOs working for resilience in Bangladesh since 2010

- UNISDR Sasakawa Award for NARRI in 2013

- UNFCCC Momentum of Change Light House Award for “Women for Results” in 2013
PUBLICATIONS on DRR, CCA, Resilience

- Financing Local Adaptation: Ensuring Access for the Climate Vulnerable in Bangladesh
- Moving Towards Transformed Resilience: Assessing community-based adaptation in Bangladesh
- Displacement and Migration from Climate Hotspots in Bangladesh - Causes and Consequences

- Understanding climate change from below, addressing barriers from above

National Alliance for Risk Reduction and Response Initiatives